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Letter dated 28 November 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my mission of good offices in Cyprus.

You will recall that in its resolution 1250 (1999) of 29 June 1999 the Security Council requested me to invite the leaders of the two sides to negotiations in the autumn of 1999.

On 29 October 1999, I informed the Security Council of my intention to designate Alvaro de Soto as my Special Adviser on Cyprus at Headquarters as from 1 November 1999 (S/1999/1111). In December 1999, Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash accepted my invitation to proximity talks to prepare the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement. The first round of talks was held in New York from 3 to 14 December 1999. This was followed by another round at Geneva, from 31 January to 8 February 2000.

On 10 May 2000, I informed the Council that, in order to give priority to the good offices efforts under way, I had asked Mr. de Soto to remain based at Headquarters (S/2000/431). Further rounds of proximity talks were held at Geneva (from 5 to 12 July and from 24 July to 4 August 2000), in New York (from 12 to 26 September 2000) and again at Geneva (from 1 to 10 November 2000).

In furtherance of the mission entrusted to me, which includes consultations in the region as well as with various capitals as required, Mr. de Soto has been assisted by a small team consisting of staff of the Secretariat and of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), a legal adviser and international consultants as required. I expect that efforts connected with my mission of good offices in Cyprus will continue from January until at least June 2001, at which point the resource requirements in support of this mandate could be incorporated into the next budget of UNFICYP, on which I shall report separately.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and alert them to the importance of continuing to support my efforts and those of my Special Adviser in discharging my mission in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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